under implementation for women. Women's polytechnics and vocational training programmes are being taken up to improve employability of women.

Pre-school centres, as adjuncts to primary/middle schools would help in improving girls' enrolment in the classes. Moreover, non-formal education centres and adult educaton centres expulsively for girls and women are also being set up to improve litracy of girls. Condensed courses of education for girls are being taken up to improve their education levels.

The major thrust under Health sector is being directed towards reduction of material and infant mortality rates. Expansion of MCH care, universal immunisation, promotion of health consciousness and nutrition education are given priority. Besides, nutriton supplement, iron and folic acid tables are given to mothers for bridging calorie vitamin gap as well as for fighting anaemia.

Apart from above, schemes have been taken up by the Department of Women and Child Development for building public opinion against atrocities on women and for generating awareness among the masses about the need for improvement of women's status.

(c) and (d) Earmaking of funds is not big done for these schemes. However, adequate provisions are being made in the Plans under respective sectors for various schemes that benefit women.

3130. [*Transferred to the 25th March, 1988*]

Representaion for Pension Parity by Ex-servicemen

3131. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ex-Jawans have represented to Government that there should be pensions parity irrespective of their date of retirement and other facilities; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of removal of dispartiy in pension of Ex-Servicemen retiring at different points of time had been examined by the 4th Central Pay Commission and it was not found possible to do so. Government has accepted this recommendation. There is no proposal at present to change the Government views in this regard. However, the matter is at present sub-judice as a Writ Petition filed by the Indian Ex-Servicemen League is pending in the Supreme Court of India.

Setting up of an Expert Committee on Agriculture

3132. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expert committte has been set up to suggest means to increase the Agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether the committee has started functioning; and

(c) if so, the time by when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Yes, Sir. A Task Force, under the chairmanship of the Member in-charge, Agriculture, Planning Commission was set up to formulate an Action Plan for achieving foodgrain production level of atleast 175 million tonnes by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) The Task Force has already formulated the Framework Action Plan in respect of 14 States and 169 districts pertaining to foodgrain crops of rice, wheat, maize, gram and arhar. The